

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for milking animals, especially cows, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) stimulating the udder of the animal by subjecting a teat or group of teats to a stimulation phase with pulsate pressure in milking cup gaps and sequentially ~~subjecting stimulating the other~~ teats or groups of teats to additional stimulation phases with pulsate pressure in milking cup gaps such that not all of animal's teats are subjected to a stimulation phase at the same time; and
- b) milking the stimulated teats;

~~wherein a phase without any stimulation occurs between the stimulating step (a) and the milking step (b)~~

wherein during the stimulation phase of a teat or group of teats in step(a), other teats that have already been stimulated are milked pursuant to step (b).

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein only single teats are ~~stimulated~~ successively subjected to stimulation phases.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein a phase without any stimulation occurs between the stimulation phases of two different teats or groups of teats.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~at the end of~~ when a stimulation phase of a teat or group of teats ends, a the stimulation phase of another teat or group of teats begins occurs.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein before the first teat or group of teats is subjected to the first stimulation phase ~~sequential stimulation of a single teat~~, the udder receives a pre-stimulation.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~during the step of sequentially stimulating the teats~~, the intensity of the pulsate pressure in the milking cup gaps during the sequential stimulation phases of teats or groups of teats decreases when a teat or groups of teats is being milked ~~sequential stimulation decreases during the milking procedure~~.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the intensity of the sequential stimulation during the milking procedure decreases continuously.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the intensity of the sequential stimulation during the milking procedure decreases discontinuously.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the milk flow or a relevant reference number is either measured or determined during the milking procedure, and the intensity of the sequential stimulation is changed based on the milk flow or the relevant reference number.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for milking animals, especially cows, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) sequentially stimulating the teats of the animal by a machine, as a way to stimulate the udder; and
- b) milking the stimulated teats, wherein the intensity of the sequential stimulation decreases continuously during the milking procedure.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein only single teats are stimulated successively.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein a phase without any stimulation occurs between the stimulation phases of two different teats.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein at the end of a stimulation phase of a teat, a stimulation phase of another teat occurs.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein before the sequential stimulation of a single teat, the udder receives a pre-stimulation.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the milk flow or a relevant reference number is either measured or determined during the milking procedure, and the intensity of the sequential stimulation is changed based on the milk flow or the relevant reference number.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for milking animals, especially cows, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) sequentially stimulating the teats of the animal by a machine, as a way to stimulate the udder; and
- b) milking the stimulated teats, wherein the intensity of the sequential stimulation decreases discontinuously during the milking procedure.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein only single teats are stimulated successively.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein a phase without any stimulation occurs between the stimulation phases of two different teats.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein at the end of a stimulation phase of a teat, a stimulation phase of another teat occurs.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein before the sequential stimulation of a single teat, the udder receives a pre-stimulation.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the milk flow or a relevant reference number is either measured or determined during the milking procedure, and the intensity of the sequential stimulation is changed based on the milk flow or the relevant reference number.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for milking animals, especially cows, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) pulsating pressure in a first milking cup gap so as to effect a stimulation of a first teat;
- b) milking the stimulated first teat;
- c) pulsating pressure in at least one additional milking cup gap so as to effect a stimulation of at least one additional teat;
- d) milking the stimulated at least one additional teat; and
- f) performing steps a) through d) sequentially as a way to stimulate the udder.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein only single teats are stimulated successively.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein a phase without any stimulation occurs between the stimulation phases of two different teats.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein at the end of a stimulation phase of a teat, a stimulation phase of another teat occurs.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein before the sequential stimulation of a single teat, the udder receives a pre-stimulation.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein during the step of sequentially stimulating the teats, the intensity of the sequential stimulation decreases during the milking procedure.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the intensity of the sequential stimulation during the milking procedure decreases continuously.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the intensity of the sequential stimulation during the milking procedure decreases discontinuously.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the milk flow or a relevant reference number is either measured or determined during the milking procedure, and the intensity of the sequential stimulation is changed based on the milk flow or the relevant reference number.